

24 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with General Electric - Software  
Capability Available at General Electric

25X1 1. On 24 February Messrs. John D. Rogers, David Alexander, Fitz Hugh Clark, Thadeous Goodwyn, and James Jewell of General Electric met with Mr. Becker, [redacted] to discuss G.E.'s capability for producing software and its desire to aid the Agency in its computing problems. Mr. Clark is in the program office; Mr. Rogers is in the Operational Systems; Mr. Alexander is in Satellite Control Computation; Dr. Jewell is the head of a Systems Analysis group which consists of 20 mathematical programmers, statisticians, and mathematicians. Three of the mathematicians have Ph. D.'s.

2. Mr. Clark opened the discussion by saying that they were selling operational reliability and that they had many new techniques for originating and maintaining computer software. He described their work as not really 100% scientific or business, but rather as total system integration and pointed out that the official name of their group was the Advanced Space Projects Division. The specialty of the group as a whole was logical programs, and the CDC 1604 was their main piece of hardware; however, Dr. Jewell has done most of his programming on the 7090 at the King of Prussia (Valley Forge?) installation. The forte of the group was I/O and particularly, in real time situations, in which they had the know-how to have the machine aid humans in making decisions. An example was cited of the machine flagging prohibited modes rather than hanging, thus allowing for exceptions to be made by

human intervention. This group not only has the software contract but has the software operational responsibility

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3. General Electric's operational structure was described as consisting of approximately 150 departments which had income ranging from 10 to 200 million. The next level under this was the division of which theirs was an example. They cited an Air Force document,

25X1 [redacted] which gave some idea of the type of work that they had done.

4. In conclusion, Mr. Clark reiterated that they had the capability of doing almost anything, that they were very short of new work coming in, and that they were trying to expand their input base; thus, were looking around for contracts. The economy drive had been hurting them, and they felt that having seen our advertisements for programmers and systems analysts that we would be interested in the type of skills they had to offer. They felt that their work with the Air Force had been proficient and this knowledge could be used on our type of work.

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[redacted]  
Chief, Programming Branch

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cc: J. Becker